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*The
Red
Army*

THE RED ARMY

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NOTE

THE entire world today pays tribute to the heroism and magnificent fighting ability of the Red Army of the Soviet Union. What kind of an army is this that has been able to stall the mighty Nazi juggernaut in its tracks? Who are the men who comprise this new type of army? Whence derive the bravery, high morale and indomitable will to win of the Red Army man? What constitutes the might of this army and what is the source of its victories?

These questions are today on the lips of millions. The answer to these questions shatters completely the tissue of lies and slanders about the "weakness" of the Soviet Union and its Red Army. Created by the people, the Red Army, supported by the Red partisans—forerunners of the armed anti-Nazi guerrilla fighters of today—has written many glorious pages in the history of the U.S.S.R.

Born in the revolutionary struggle of the Russian peoples to liberate themselves from the yoke of capitalist tyranny and exploitation, the Red Army is the product of the great socialist October Revolution of 1917. It was tempered and steeled in the fight for existence waged by the young Workers' and Peasants' Republic against the combined forces of the White-Guard and interventionist armies during the period of the civil war. It was tested and schooled in battles against the Japanese invaders at Lake Hassan, in the Far East, and against the Finnish provocateurs who threatened Leningrad in 1939-40. Today the Red Army stands as the spearhead of the growing world anti-fascist front in the decisive struggle against Hitler fascism.

This backward glance at the origins, history, role and organization of the Red Army is designed to aid the reader to a better understanding of the epochal role played by the Red Army today.



Red Army men of the Kalinin Military School signing the Military Oath of faithfulness and allegiance to their people and their Soviet Fatherland.

HOW THE RED ARMY AROSE

IN FEBRUARY, 1918, three months after the Russian Revolution, the German imperialists, taking advantage of their military superiority, resolved to overthrow the Soviet Government and convert Russia into their colony. Meeting with no resistance on the part of the remnants of the old Russian army, the German troops succeeded in overrunning large territories and constituted a threat to Petrograd.

The Soviet Government sent out the call: "The socialist fatherland is in danger!" The workers and soldiers responded to this appeal by rallying closely around their government and entering the ranks of the Red Army.

In the Putilov Works in Petrograd, as soon as the news of the interventionists' onslaught became known, the workers began to enroll in the Red Army.

In the heart of the Donetz Coal Basin, Voroshilov formed the Lugansk Socialist Detachment. With their own means the workers built two armored trains. By the summer of 1918 this small detachment of miners had grown into a mighty army.

Entire working class families enrolled in the Red Army. In Lugansk, for instance, a mechanic by the name of Tsupov joined Voroshilov's detachment, and with him came his three sons—Pavel, George and Nikolai. At the Sormovo Works in the city of Gorky, all the adult members of the Bokov family volunteered for the Red Army. Bokov's son and daughter fell in the fighting around Petrograd. "I am proud of the noble example my children set," said this veteran worker. "They acted like true patriots of our native land."

The women, too, took their places at the side of their husbands, brothers and fathers to defend the Socialist Republic.

The Soviet people had risen in the justest of patriotic wars.

“The young detachments of the new army—the army of the revolutionary people—heroically resisted the German marauders, who were armed to the teeth. At Narva and Pskov the German invaders met with a resolute repulse. Their advance on Petrograd was checked. February 23—the day the forces of German imperialism were repulsed—is regarded as the birthday of the Red Army.” *

* *History of the C.P.S.U.*, International Publishers, New York, p. 217.

Veteran Red Partisans marching on May Day. The Red Army operating at the front was supported by partisans and revolutionary workers operating in the rear of the enemy, during the entire period of the war against Russian White Guards and the forces of foreign intervention.



In the spring and summer of 1918 Soviet Russia found herself in a critical situation. The German army of occupation was lording it in the Ukraine and the Transcaucasus. Imperialist Japan had ensconced her troops in Vladivostok. In the Middle Volga Region and Siberia troops acting under the orders of the interventionist powers had launched an attack against the Soviet government. In the north, the forces of invasion had captured Archangel and Murmansk.

In the North Caucasus the tsarist generals Kornilov, Alexeyev and Denikin had organized a White-Guard army with whose forces the foreign interventionists thought to crush the Soviet Republic.

In the Don region Generals Krasnov and Mamontov, who were secretly supported by the German imperialists, had roused the wealthy section of the Cossacks against the Soviet Government.

One of the most important sectors of the front in the summer of 1916 was Tsaritsyn. General Krasnov's White-Guard hordes, who were moving on Tsaritsyn, were threatening to cut off the industrial centers of the country from the grain regions of the North Caucasus. The surrender of Tsaritsyn to the White Guards would have spelled the doom of the Soviet troops and scattered detachments of Red partisans in the North Caucasus.

By defending the city of Tsaritsyn the Red Army was preventing the Eastern counter-revolutionary forces from joining the Southern forces for a combined assault on Moscow.

It was at this time, which was so fraught with danger for Tsaritsyn, that Stalin appeared on the scene. He took charge of the city's defenses, and within a few weeks had transformed Tsaritsyn into an impregnable fortress.

Stalin strengthened the ranks of the defenders of Tsaritsyn, ruthlessly combing out the traitors, who were secretly weaving a

web of conspiracies, and established order and discipline among the troops.

Mosovich, one of the White-Guard conspirators in Tsaritsyn, informed General Denikin with great bitterness that the plot of the conspirators had fallen through "due to the arrival of Commissar Djugashvili [J. Stalin] an energetic and shrewd man who saw through my plans and had me, Kovalevsky and the entire artillery command arrested, wresting the initiative from my hands."

With the assistance of Voroshilov, who had broken through to Tsaritsyn from the Don region with his troops, Stalin united the scattered armed detachments into a regular army. On Stalin's initiative the numerous mounted detachments were combined to form large cavalry units, which subsequently became the First Mounted Army.

During the defense of Tsaritsyn, Stalin and Voroshilov trained some of the finest leaders of the Red Army. One of these was Semyon Budyonny, who began his military career as a commander of a partisan detachment.

Stalin's invincible will and his unwavering faith in victory fired all the defenders of Tsaritsyn. Three times the Whites attacked, and three times they were repulsed and driven back to the steppes of the Don.

An important part in the defense of the city was played by the proletariat of Tsaritsyn, who formed a number of independent units numbering 10,000 men in all. Miners from the Donbas and workers from other parts of the Ukraine, Petrograd and Moscow also took part in the defense.

By the autumn of 1918 the Red Army, under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party, had cleared the country of the German invaders, routed the White-Guard hordes in the south, and by the end of the year had the situation well in hand on the Eastern Front.

THE ROUT OF KOLCHAK

IN THE spring of 1919 the foreign interventionists decided on a combined attack on Soviet Russia. According to their plan the main blow was to be struck by Admiral Kolchak, backed by General Denikin. Their forces were scheduled to unite at Saratov for a joint advance on Moscow. General Yudenich was to second them by striking at Petrograd.

In this difficult situation the Soviet Government and the Communist Party roused the entire rear to serve the interests of the front. The country became an armed camp which supplied the front with arms, ammunition, supplies and replacements.

The policy of a stable alliance of the proletariat with the poor and middle peasants played a decisive part in determining the outcome of the civil war. Tens of thousands of poor and middle peasants flocked into the Red Army.

Under the leadership of Lenin a plan was drawn up for the defeat of Kolchak.

The Party entrusted the carrying out of this plan to Mikhail Frunze, a tried Bolshevik and colleague of Lenin and Stalin.

After making a careful study of the situation at the front, Frunze launched a bold attack, as a result of which Kolchak met with a severe defeat in April.

In May, 1919, when the main forces of the Red Army were concentrated on the Eastern Front, Petrograd was threatened by the army of General Yudenich.

The enemy succeeded in stirring up a mutiny against the Soviet Republic among the garrisons of two forts in the vicinity of Petrograd, Fort Krassnaya Gorka and Fort Seraya Loshad.

At this critical juncture, the Party sent Stalin to rout Yudenich and to establish order at the front and in the rear. With an iron hand, he cleared Petrograd of spies and plotters.

Yudenich's forces were driven back into Esthonia. The designs of the invasionist powers, who had hoped to ease the position of Admiral Kolchak's retreating army by this attack, were frustrated. Unable to withstand the blows of the Red Army from the front and constantly harried in the rear, Kolchak's army flung itself about in a death agony, and by the end of 1919 was completely routed.

Semyon Budyonny and Mikhail Kalinin at the front against Wrangel. Budyonny's cavalry won legendary fame in the fighting against Wrangel and Denikin in 1919.



THE DEFEAT OF DENIKIN

IN THE summer of 1919 the interventionist forces launched a new combined attack on Soviet Russia, with Denikin and Yudenich as their pawns. In obedience to the voice of its masters, Denikin's army launched an attack, occupying the Don Region and the Ukraine. In October Denikin captured Orel. The heart of the Republic—Moscow—was threatened. Simultaneously, Yudenich moved on Petrograd. On the North, the combined troops of the invaders and the White Guards were operating. Once again the Soviet Republic was encircled in a ring of fire.

In an appeal to the working people, Lenin pointed out that the most critical moment of the socialist revolution had arrived. He sounded the call, "All for the fight against Denikin! All for the war! Let us turn the land of the Soviets into a united armed camp!"

In answer to this call the workers increased their labor productivity, intensified military training, and entered the ranks of the Red Army.

On the proposal of Lenin, Stalin, Voroshilov, Ordjonikidze and Budyonny were sent to the Southern Front.

After acquainting himself with the situation at the front, Stalin immediately came to the conclusion that the plan of attack proposed by the commanding staff of the Southern Front in conjunction with Trotsky had to be rejected. This plan provided that the main blow be struck against Denikin, advancing from Tsaritsyn toward Novorossiisk.

According to this plan, the Red Army would have had to cut across the roadless steppes of the Don, inhabited by the Cossacks,

who at that time were for the most part hostile to the Soviet Government.

Stalin proposed that the main attack be launched on Rostov, by way of Kharkov and the Donetz Basin.

The new plan would ensure rapid movement of the Soviet troops through proletarian districts, whose inhabitants could be counted on to give wholehearted support to the Red Army, while the numerous railway lines in this territory would facilitate the maneuvering of troops and the provision of supplies.

Lenin himself wrote the order to field headquarters countermanding the plan of the subsequently exposed traitor Trotsky, which would have led to defeat. The Southern Front proceeded to launch its attack on the basis of Stalin's effective plan.

A shock group led by Serge Ordjonikidze took the offensive in the vicinity of Orel and Kromi. In October the Red Army captured Orel. At the same time Budyonny's Cavalry Corps dealt a crushing blow to Denikin's army in the vicinity of Voronezh.

Budyonny's cavalry won legendary fame for itself in the fighting against Denikin.

In the battles for Kastornaya great military skill was also displayed by the commander of the 6th Division, Semyon Timoshenko, today a Hero and Marshal of the Soviet Union. His division, having outflanked the enemy and penetrated behind his lines, made it possible to break through the White-Guard front. Timoshenko amazed everyone, men and commanders alike, with his daring, indomitable courage and initiative.

At the beginning of 1920 the whole of the Ukraine and the Northern Caucasus were freed of the Whites. Denikin's vast army, which the interventionist governments had equipped so well, had ceased to exist.

THE RED ARMY DESTROYS WRANGEL AND THE POLISH INVADERS

EVEN though they had lost Denikin's army, the foreign interventionists still cherished the hope of destroying the Soviet Republic. This time they decided to make use of White-Guard Poland and the remnants of Denikin's troops, whom General Wrangel had rallied in the Crimea.

On April 25, 1920, the Polish troops invaded the Soviet Ukraine, and on May 6 they seized Kiev.

The Soviet Government took energetic measures to strengthen the Polish Front. The First Mounted Army was sent up post-haste from the Northern Caucasus, and the finest fighting divisions were transferred from the former Northern, Eastern and Caucasian fronts.

As soon as the reinforcements had been brought up the Red troops launched a counter-attack along the whole front.

Budyonny's First Mounted Army was assigned the task of breaking through the enemy line between Kazatin and Berdichev.

The inhabitants of the regions occupied by the Poles heartily welcomed their liberators—the Red Army.

Having liberated Kiev and driven the Polish Whites out of the Ukraine and Byelorussia, the Red Army advanced on Lvov and Warsaw. The Polish armies were on the verge of defeat.

Weakened by the war, Poland was obliged to relinquish her designs of seizing the territory of the Ukraine west of the Dnieper and Byelorussia. In October, 1920, she concluded peace with Soviet Russia.

Only one more agent—Wrangel—was left.

The sector of the Southwestern Front facing Wrangel was made an independent front. Stalin was instructed to organize this sector. On his proposal, the outstanding proletarian military leader, Mikhail Frunze, was put in command of the Southern Front.

In a short time Stalin and Frunze had concentrated all the necessary forces for an offensive.

At the end of October the troops on the Southern Front launched a determined offensive. The main blow was struck by the First Mounted Army against the Kakhovka positions. The task of the Mounted Army was to penetrate behind the lines of Wrangel's forces and to cut off his road of retreat into the Crimea.

In four days of bloody battle Wrangel lost over 20,000 men and officers. But, nevertheless, the White Guards succeeded in breaking through to the Crimea.

The Red Army was now faced with the new and extremely difficult task of getting into the Crimea.

Frunze directed the military operations personally. For three days and three nights the fierce battle raged.

On November 16 Frunze reported to Lenin that the Southern Front was no more. The Crimea had become Soviet territory. The last prop of the interventionist powers, Baron Wrangel, had been driven into the sea. The miserable remnants of his army had fled by boat to other lands.

From the end of 1920 through the first half of 1922 the final liberation of the Transcaucasus was completed, the counter-revolutionary Kronstadt rebellion was suppressed, the numerous counter-revolutionary bands in the Ukraine were wiped out, and the Finnish sorties into Karelia were brought to a halt. The Japanese interventionists and Russian White Guards were utterly routed in the final battles around Volochayevsk and Spassk.

Thus ended the foreign military intervention and civil war.

WHY THE RED ARMY WAS VICTORIOUS

THE just war against the foreign interventionists and White Guards ended in complete victory for Soviet Russia. How is it that the young, recently organized Red Army, which was formed in the very course of the war, which had no experienced military cadres, which was so poorly and meagerly equipped, armed and fed, was able to defeat the combined forces of the foreign interventionists and Russian White Guards?

The reason is that the Red Army differed radically from all other armies that had ever existed.

The special features of this new army have been excellently explained by Stalin in his speech delivered on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Red Army:

“The first and principal feature of our Red Army is that it is the army of the emancipated workers and peasants, the army of the October Revolution, the army of the dictatorship of the proletariat. . . . Our army is the army of the liberation of the working people. . . .

“The second feature of our Red Army is that it is an army based on the fraternity of the nations of our country, an army that emancipated the oppressed nations of our country, an army that defends the freedom and independence of the nations of our country. . . .

“And, lastly, a third feature of the Red Army: it is the spirit of internationalism, the international sentiments which imbue our whole Red Army. . . .

“It is due to these three features that our army knows where it is heading, that it consists not of tin soldiers, but of people who know and understand where to go and for what to fight. And an army that knows what it is fighting for is invincible, comrades.”

The Red Army was victorious because it fought for the policy of the Soviet Government, for the policy that was in the interests of the people, a policy which the people understood and realized to be the correct policy, their own policy, and hence supported to the end. The Red Army was loyal and faithful to its people, and for this reason the people loved it and looked upon it as their own army.

The Red Army was victorious because the front and the rear were united in Soviet Russia. The whole people rose in arms against the interventionists and White Guards. The Red Army, operating at the front, was supported by the partisans and revolutionary workers operating in the rear of the enemy. No sooner did the Soviet Government sound the call that the country was in danger than workers' regiments sprang up immediately, ready for action.

The Red Army was victorious because it knew and thoroughly understood what it was fighting for. Such great men as Lenin, Stalin, Molotov, Kalinin, Sverdlov, Dzerzhinsky, Ordjonikidze and Kirov concerned themselves with the political education of the Red Army. An understanding of the aims and purposes of the war strengthened the discipline among men and commanders and gave rise to unparalleled self-sacrifice and mass heroism.

Neither the hardships and deprivations of war, nor the savage violence of the enemy were able to break the Red Army's will to victory.

The Red Army was victorious because it was able to produce from its own ranks military commanders of a new type, men like Frunze, Voroshilov, Budyonny and Timoshenko; in its ranks fought such talented heroes of the people as Chapayev, Shors, Parkhomenko and Kotovsky.

The Red Army was victorious because its leading core, both at the front and in the rear, was the Bolshevik Party, united and

firmly welded, imbued with a revolutionary spirit and ready for any sacrifice for the success of the common cause.

This Party was unsurpassed in its ability to organize millions and to lead them properly in the most intricate of home and international situations.

The Party had its envoys in the army in the persons of the Bolshevik commissars. "Without the military commissars we would not have had a Red Army," said Lenin in appraising the role of the Bolshevik commissars.

Lenin and Stalin, the leaders of the Party and the Socialist Revolution, personally directed the organization of the Red Army, directed its military operations, equipment and supply. Not a single operation of any importance escaped the attention of Lenin and Stalin.

The Council of Defense, set up under the chairmanship of Lenin, introduced important measures for reorganizing the entire national economy in accordance with the requirements of the war, to supply the front with everything that was necessary, and to strengthen the efficiency of the Red Army. Lenin closely followed the course of the fighting and did everything in his power to ensure the success of the Red Army on all fronts of the civil war.

Wherever the front was in particular danger, and whenever disaster threatened, Stalin was sent. And invariably he turned the tide and succeeded in routing the enemy.

The Red Army was victorious because it was not alone in its struggle, but was actively assisted by the workers of the whole world. Numerous workers of other lands joined the Red Army and with arms in hand fought under its banners.

"Among the fighters in the Red Army," Budyonny relates, "one met Poles, Latvians, Estonians, Moldavians, Hungarians, Serbs,



Red Army men at a lecture on international affairs. The Red Army knows and thoroughly understands what it is fighting for.

Czechs, and even Frenchmen. The Chinese, Koreans, Turks, Tatars, Bashkirs and other Eastern peoples had their men in the Mounted Army. The native lands of many of these men were far beyond the borders of the land of the Soviets. But Soviet Russia had become their fatherland, and the Mounted Army was one big family.”

The workers and peasants will never forget the brave action of the French sailors stationed in the Black Sea who refused to fire at the Russian workers and mutinied in the spring of 1919.

During the battles with the Polish Whites, the German workers refused to load arms and military supplies consigned to Pilsudski. The French workers concluded an agreement with the British workers for joint action against the interventionists. In Great Britain Committees of Action were set up, which mobilized the workers under the slogan of “Hands Off Russia!”

In August, 1920, a workers’ conference was held in London, demanding that the intervention in Soviet Russia be stopped. In Seattle, longshoremen refused to load munitions consigned to Kolchak. Many trade union and workers’ organizations in the United States passed resolutions demanding that American troops be recalled.

This assistance on the part of the international proletariat was an important factor in the victorious outcome of the civil war. “The international bourgeoisie has only to raise its hand against us to have it seized by its own workers.” *

* V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. XXV, p. 405, Russ. ed.

THE VICTORY OF SOCIALISM — THE FOUNDATION OF THE MIGHT OF THE RED ARMY

HAVING routed the interventionists, the young Soviet Republic turned to the work of peaceful construction.

There was an acute shortage of prime necessities in the country. Most of the mills, factories and mines were not functioning. The output of large-scale industry was approximately one-seventh of the pre-war output, that of agriculture only one-half.

Having retained all the key positions—large-scale industry, the means of transport, banks and trade—the Soviet Government confidently led the country along the historic path of restoring the national economy. By 1925 the work of economic restoration had been completed and national economy attained pre-war level.

It was now necessary to take the second and even more difficult step: it was necessary to create a mighty socialist industry and to build up a highly productive system of socialist agriculture in the shortest possible time.

Many people thought it “fantastic” even to pose this task. The industry of the country possessed a very poorly developed metallurgical base and outmoded equipment. The majority of the population, small peasants, were cultivating the soil with ancient tools and had only the remotest idea of modern machinery.

But once the people had been freed of the capitalist yoke, not even ten years were required to carry out this allegedly fantastic task.

By 1932 Soviet industry was already provided with a mighty metallurgical base. Moreover, the newly created coal and iron

base in the East was such as any of the highly developed industrial countries could well envy.

By this time, too, tractor-building, automobile, machine-tool, aviation and chemical branches of industry had been established, none of which branches had existed in pre-revolutionary Russia.

Tens of millions of small peasant farms united to form collective farms. The Soviet Union now had a system of socialist agriculture which was on a larger scale than the agriculture of any other country in the world.

The further progress in industrializing the country and building up the collective farm system led to the complete victory of the socialist system in all spheres of the national economy.

This meant that in the Soviet Union the exploiting classes had been abolished, that the exploitation of man by man had been done away with, and that in the main socialist society had been built.

The abolition of the exploiting classes, which had ever inflamed enmity between the various peoples, vastly strengthened the feeling of mutual trust, friendship and fraternal solidarity among the numerous nationalities of the Soviet Union.

This is the source of the heightened patriotism among the peoples of the Soviet Union, this is the source of the readiness on the part of the working people to do all and dare all for the good of their socialist fatherland.

In this way, the victory of socialism in the U.S.S.R. furnished all the necessary conditions, both of a material and of a moral and political nature, for the uninterrupted growth of the military might of the land.

“As a result of all this, the Soviet Union has been converted from a weak country, unprepared for defense, into a country mighty in defense, a country prepared for every contingency, a country capable of producing on a mass scale all modern weapons

of defense and of equipping its army with them in the event of an attack from without.”*

This was how Stalin appraised the military might of the U. S. S. R. in 1933.

At that time the output of socialist industry was more than three times the output of the pre-revolutionary industry of Russia. In 1939 it already was over ten times as great. Naturally, such progress made it possible for industry considerably to increase the output of all sorts of modern armaments.

The radical changes in the arms and matériel of the Red Army are all the more striking in view of the fact that after the end of the civil war the Red Army had no modern means of warfare (airplanes, tanks, chemicals). From the old Russian army it had inherited rifles, a small number of howitzers and light field-guns. The number of machine-guns, automatic weapons and heavy artillery pieces was extremely limited. There were no tanks or airplanes to speak of.

Surrounded as it was by capitalist countries, the Soviet Union could not rest content with such backwardness. It had to have a strong, well-trained and well-equipped army. For this reason the Soviet government took a number of measures directed toward strengthening, reorganizing and re-equipping its armed forces.

This reorganization took place in the period of 1924-28. The structure of the Red Army was changed entirely. Rules and regulations were drafted for it on the basis of military experience. An extensive system of military schools was established for the training of commanders and political officers. This military reform, begun by Mikhail Frunze and completed by Klimenty Voroshilov, was an extremely important factor in strengthening the Red Army. Nevertheless, the matériel of the armed forces had not yet reached a sufficiently satisfactory level. For instance, the Red Army still

* Stalin, *Problems of Leninism*, p. 415.

lagged behind the well-equipped armies of the major capitalist countries in respect to mechanization and motorization.

The rapid rate of socialist industrialization, however, made it possible to overcome this backwardness in a short period of time. In 1934, the average mechanical horsepower per Red Armyman had already attained the figure of 7.74. In 1939, despite the fact that the Red Army had more than doubled in size as compared with 1934, average mechanical horsepower per Red Armyman was 13.

In the short space of ten years, the Red Army had become the most highly mechanized army in the world.

The infantry of the Red Army is equipped with the most diverse fighting appliances. A rifle regiment is equipped not only with rifles, grenades (hand and rifle) and machine-guns, but with mortars, anti-tank guns and artillery pieces of a larger caliber.

At the same time the small arms themselves have changed. Automatic rifles, light and large-caliber machine-guns have made their appearance. The functions of the infantry have become varied: a modern rifle regiment consists not only of riflemen, but also of artillerymen, liaison men, sappers and chemical squads.

The Red Army possesses a numerous and first-class artillery.

In ten years (from 1930 to 1939) the artillery as a whole increased seven times, while tank and anti-tank artillery increased seventy times.

Formerly the Red Army had almost no in-fighting artillery (mortars and bomb-throwers). Today it has this artillery in sufficient quantity.

The number of tanks in the Red Army increased during this same period forty-three times. The aggregate salvo of all types of firing weapons of tank and armored car troops was nearly four times as great in 1939 as in 1934.

Splendid land cruisers, manufactured in Soviet factories, can lay roads for the infantry across any obstacles.

The Soviet air force occupies first place in the world. In the ten years from 1930 to 1939 the number of airplanes in the Red Air Force increased 6.5 times. Particularly great progress has been made in increasing the number of bombers and pursuit planes. At the same time the speed, ceiling and range of the planes have also increased.

The Red Cavalry of today is very different from the cavalry of the time of the intervention and the civil war. Today the cavalry is equipped with machine guns, artillery and powerful speed tanks. By reason of its great mobility and up-to-date matériel, the cavalry of the Red Army is a mighty force.

After the defeat of the interventionists and the end of the civil war, Soviet Russia remained with an extremely weak navy. The



A Senior Lieutenant conducting a class in military tactics and maneuvers in the Kharkov Military District.

Black Sea Fleet had been sunk as far back as 1918 in order to prevent its falling into the hands of the German imperialists. Wrangel sailed off to France with the few ships that remained. There was no fleet whatever in the Far East or in the Northern waters. The Baltic Fleet alone retained its fighting core.

During the years of the Stalin Five-Year Plan periods the Navy of the U.S.S.R. has become a formidable military force.

The naval strength of the Soviet Union today consists of the Baltic, the Northern, the Pacific and the Black Sea Fleets, and four flotillas—the Amur, Pinsk, Caspian and Danube.

With the formation of the Soviet Baltic republics, the Baltic Fleet acquired new sea bases and full scope to defend the western borders of the country.

The Soviet Union has achieved particularly great success in building submarine flotillas.

The U.S.S.R. has a greater number of submarines today than any other country in the world. In speed, depth, the rapidity with which they descend and the length of time they can remain under water, the Soviet submarines surpass the best foreign submarines, while the Soviet motor torpedo boats are first in the world with regard to the power of their armaments and their speed.

At present the Soviet Union is building a powerful navy, both for sea and ocean service. An air arm and coastal defenses have also grown together with the Navy. The Soviet coast is defended by a system of impregnable fortifications, equipped with powerful artillery.

The powerful matériel that has been created as a result of the victory of socialism in the U.S.S.R. is one of the most important factors making for the invincibility of the Red Army and Navy.

THE PERSONNEL OF THE RED ARMY

THE rapid improvement in the living standard of the people has been accompanied by a veritable cultural revolution in the country. Universal compulsory elementary education in the languages of the various nations of the U.S.S.R. has been introduced. In five years (1933-39) the number of students in schools of all grades has risen from 23,400,000 to 33,400,000.

For the one year 1938 the higher educational institutions of the U.S.S.R. (exclusive of military schools) graduated 106,000 young engineers, physicians, lawyers, teachers, etc.

The tremendous changes in the cultural aspect of the entire country have been reflected in the Red Army as well.

A large system of military schools has been established for the training of commanders. By 1939 the Red Army had sixty-three infantry schools, and other educational institutions from which thousands of well-trained officers are graduated annually. The army also has thirty-two air schools, which train pilots and aeronautical engineers.

In addition, the army receives a large number of commanders and experts in various fields who have had university training. The Red Army has fourteen military academies and a number of military faculties in civil universities. Here over 20,000 commanders, political officers, engineers, physicians and the like are trained. Thus, every year sees an increase in the cadres of our military intelligentsia, a considerable part of which received its elementary military education in the battles against the interventionists and the White Guards. The cultural standard of the rank and file has also changed radically.

Among the young people called up to the colors in 1940 35.5 per cent had received a higher or secondary education, 55.3 per cent had received an incomplete secondary education, and there were only 9.2 per cent with an elementary education. The new forces entering the Red Army are distinguished by a high degree of political education and activity.

<i>Degree of Education</i>	1937	1938	1939
	<i>In per cent</i>		
Higher education	0	0.5	10.2
Complete secondary education.....	1.1	2.5	58.0
Incomplete secondary education.....	20.0	48.0	25.0
Elementary education	70.9	49.0	6.8
Illiterate	8.0	0	0

Nor is this unit an exception. On the contrary, since its recruits come from various parts of the country, it is in no way different from any other unit of the Red Army.

In her book *The New Lithuania*, Anna Louise Strong cites a number of interesting episodes showing the high cultural and moral level of the Red Armymen and commanders. While traveling through Lithuania the author met a lieutenant in the train, sitting among a group of Red Armymen:

“... As soon as he heard my name and knew that I was an American writer, he asked: ‘Aren’t you the author of *China’s Millions*? I have read that book.’ Then he introduced me to a dozen Red Armymen as ‘that famous American author whose books on China you know.’ What author, I ask you, is proof against a compliment like that? And what army in the world knows intimately so many books on foreign lands?”*

People who knew the soldiers of the old Russian Army are amazed at the changes that have taken place in less than twenty-five years.

* Anna Louise Strong, *The New Lithuania*, Workers Library Publishers, New York, p. 16.

The older generation of the Soviet Baltic Republics still remember the terrible days of the punitive expeditions organized by the tsarist regime after the defeat of the Revolution of 1905-07.

In those days the ignorant and stultified soldiers of the tsarist army conducted themselves as conquerors and the hangmen of liberty. Today disciplined and cultured Red Armymen come to them as emancipators.

“A peasant told me: ‘The Red Army tanks were coming through our village and there was a hen with a brood of chickens on the road. The tanks stopped and a Red Armyman got out and drove off the chickens so that the tanks could go on. Never have we seen such an army. Our own Lithuanians, in time of maneuvers, are not as careful of the peasants’ property as that.’”*

“An American relief worker, who has spent the past six months in Vilna, also told me: ‘In all these months I have not heard of a drunken soldier or of any scandal with women. Any army in the world—no, any group of cultured gentlemen in the world—might be proud of the record they have made.’”**

The Red Armymen, commanders and political workers enjoy the right to elect and be elected to the organs of state power on an equal footing with all the citizens of the U.S.S.R.

There are eighty-six elected representatives from the Red Army in the socialist parliament—the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. And the Supreme Soviets of the Union and Autonomous Republics have an even greater number.

Side by side with Marshals and Generals, the rank-and-file Red Armymen also discuss and decide questions of national importance. Budyonny, Marshal of the Soviet Union, and Seleznev, a rank-and-file sailor of the Red Navy, are equal members of the supreme legislative body of the U.S.S.R.

Many famous people are serving in the Red Army. From its

* *Ibid.*, p. 20.

** *Ibid.*, p. 17.

ranks came the fearless airmen who rescued the crew of the *Chelyuskin* icebreaker from the grim ice of the Arctic. They were the first in the country to earn the high title of Heroes of the Soviet Union. The whole world knows of the splendid trans-Arctic and transoceanic flights made by Chkalov, Gromov, Yumashev, Belyakov, and Baidukov—all trained by the Red Army.

In battles for the socialist fatherland, many thousands of rank-and-file men, political workers and commanders of the Red Army have shown unparalleled courage, heroism and valor.

The Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. has decorated 6,500 people who distinguished themselves in battles against the Japanese at Lake Hassan, and 17,000 for valor displayed in the operations at Khalkhin-Gol. Over 48,000 Red Armymen, commanders and political workers have been decorated for distinguished service in the battles against the Finnish Whites.

The highest award in the U.S.S.R.—the title of Hero of the Soviet Union with the Gold Star and the Order of Lenin—has

At the Dzerzhinsky Naval Engineering School, officers and men voting in elections to the Supreme Soviet. There are 86 elected representatives of the Red Army in the socialist parliament.



imperialist World War, first as a private and then as a non-commissioned officer. After the February Revolution, Tyulenev was elected to the Petrograd Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies from the 5th Cavalry Division. The great October Socialist Revolution of 1917 found him in Simbirsk, where he took an active part in the struggle for Soviet power. In March, 1918, Tyulenev joined the Communist Party. During the years of intervention and civil war he was at the front, first as a rank-and-file Red Armyman, later as commander of a platoon, then of a squadron and finally of a brigade and a division.

In March, 1921, Tyulenev took part in suppressing the Kronstadt mutiny against the Soviet power, and in April he was sent to Tambov to suppress the kulak counter-revolutionary rebellion headed by Antonov.

At the close of the civil war Tyulenev began to study. He was

graduated from the Frunze Military Academy, where he subsequently took a post-graduate course for commanders.

In 1938 Tyulenev was elected by the working people to the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic.

During the campaign of the Red Army to liberate the Western Ukraine from the Polish yoke, he was in command of the southern column of troops.

The road traversed by the former furnaceman Ivan Tyulenev—from private to Army General—is typical of many Soviet Generals.

In addition to the representatives of the older generation who received their training in the patriotic war against the interventionists and White Guards, there is also a considerable section of Soviet youth among the Generals, who showed their mettle in recent years in the battles for the socialist fatherland.



An armored tank division of the Red Army.

POLITICAL AND EDUCATIONAL WORK IN THE RED ARMY

THE Red Army is not only a school where the military science is taught, where highly skilled, capable, courageous and hardened fighters are trained. It is also a school for imbuing people with a high moral standard and for training them politically.

The educational work of the Red Army is carried on with a view to developing the political understanding of the Red Armymen and commanders to the utmost extent. Political understanding on the part of the Red Armymen and commanders is regarded as one of the most important factors in strengthening the fighting capacity of the army.

One of the principal forms of political education in the Red Army is compulsory political studies.

The men and junior commanders study the history of their fatherland, the history of the Bolshevik Party and of the Red Army. They make a systematic study of the international situation, of the development of the revolutionary movement in the capitalist countries, and of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union.

They have at their disposal an extensive system of military libraries. The libraries of the Red Army contain over 30,000,000 volumes. This is three times greater than the number of books in all the public libraries in pre-revolutionary Russia.

The Red Armymen take out about two million books every month from the libraries. The commanders and men subscribe to over two million newspapers and periodicals of various kinds. Hundreds of thousands subscribe to the numerous newspapers

published by the Red Army itself. A great many commanders and Red Armymen take correspondence courses.

In addition to military and political literature, the Red Army readers also evince a great demand for fiction, including foreign literature.

Classics of world literature which are particularly popular include Balzac, Hugo, Dickens, Stendahl and Swift, and the contemporary writers Romain Rolland and Henri Barbusse.

As many as a hundred thousand men and commanders publish articles, sketches, feuilletons and poetry both in the local and in the central civil and military press.

The country devotes considerable means to cultural and educational work in the Red Army. In 1939 alone 230,000,000 rubles were expended for these purposes.

In 1939 there were 1,900 clubs in the various army units and 267 Red Army Centers. The clubs and Red Army Centers are a special sort of Red Army university where the most varied kinds of study goes on: military, political and general educational.

Many Red Army Centers are veritable palaces of culture. They have their own theaters, libraries and excellently equipped gymnasiums.

The most eminent scientists, writers, poets and actors appear in the auditoriums of the Red Army Centers.

At the same time the Red Army Centers and clubs are splendid organizers of all sorts of amateur theatricals, choruses, bands, etc., among the Red Armymen. It would be difficult to find a unit in the Red Army which does not have its chorus, its musicians, its dancers and its actors. The rank-and-file and the commanders, as well as the wives of the latter, all take part in these activities.

In the distant Trans-Baikal Military Area over 4,000 took part in an Olympiade held there in 1939. Many of these Red Army amateurs can vie successfully with the finest professionals. The

eighteen Song and Dance Ensembles of the Red Army are genuine vehicles of musical culture in the Red Army.

The Red Banner Song and Dance Ensemble of the Red Army, under the leadership of Professor Alexandrov, is known far beyond the borders of the Soviet Union. This ensemble performs not only on the city stages but also in the units of the Red Army in the field.

The largest Military Areas of the Red Army have their own theaters. The Central Theater of the Red Army in Moscow is one of the best theaters in the capital, and is deservedly popular among the working people.

In addition to the extensive political and cultural work carried on in the Red Army, the men are also trained to develop an invincible will, endurance and physical fitness.

Physical training is obligatory for the Red Armymen and commanders. Nor is this training confined to gymnasiums and sports fields. Maneuvers are held in conditions that approximate the actual conditions of war as closely as possible. Red Army units make forced marches across the most difficult terrain, through forests and swamps, "battling" to break through fortifications which have been built in accordance with the last word in military technique.

In addition to this compulsory physical training, the amateur physical culture movement is very widespread in the Red Army. Tens of thousands of Red Armymen are enthusiastic participators in the cross-country ski races held in honor of Hero and Marshal of the Soviet Union Timoshenko. These races, in which all the units of the Red Army participated in 1941, were instituted at the initiative of the Young Communist League members of the Moscow Military Area.

The sportsmen of the Red Army play a big part in the sports life of the country. In the All-Union competition of 1939-40 they

took first place in skiing, medium distance races, fencing and swimming. The soccer team of the Central House of the Red Army is one of the best in the country.

The system of education in the Red Army helps to disclose talented sportsmen and helps them to develop and perfect themselves. Among the champions and record-holders in the U.S.S.R. there are many who regard the Red Army as their "Alma Mater of sports."

This many-sided political, educational and cultural work in combination with strict military discipline performs veritable miracles.

During his term of military service the young worker or peasant changes beyond recognition. He leaves the ranks of the Army or Navy a politically mature person, possessing the necessary knowledge and having a broad cultural outlook. The Red Army trains him to master military technique and imbues him with boundless devotion to his fatherland, to communism.

It is of interest to note that many Red Armymen who have finished their term of service and are in the reserves continue to maintain their connection with the Red Army. In letters written to their former commanders and political officers of their units they recall their term of service in the Red Army with great feeling and gratitude.

THE RED ARMY—AN ARMY OF THE FRATERNITY OF NATIONS

TSARIST Russia was a prison of nations. In its efforts to suppress the revolutionary movement of the working class and the peasantry, in its efforts to suppress the national liberation movement of the oppressed peoples, the tsarist government did not scorn to resort to the vilest means.

It kindled racial and national animosity, incited massacres between the Armenians and the Tatars, the Uzbeks and Turkmens, and engineered pogroms against the Jews.

The policy of national oppression was persistently pursued in the tsarist army also. Many nationalities were not allowed to serve in the old Russian army altogether. The tsarist government knew that the national minorities were inimical to it and considered it dangerous to train large numbers of soldiers of the oppressed nationalities.

And those "aliens," as they were called, who were admitted into the tsarist army were treated with particular severity in the barracks.

There were no bounds to the mockery to which the soldiers of the other nationalities as well—Jews, Tatars, Bashkirs, Kirghiz—were subjected. The Jews were particularly insulted.

It was not by chance that in the tsarist army the greatest number of suicides were among soldiers of the oppressed nationalities.

Enmity was stirred up among the Russian soldiers against the non-Russian nationalities. The officers and priests strove to erect an impassable wall between the Russian soldiers and the soldiers of other nationalities, resorting to the most varied measures to-

ward this end. It was no rare occasion for non-commissioned officers to force soldiers of different nationalities to strike each other across the face for giving incorrect answers at the lessons in "Rules and Regulations." It was drilled into the soldiers that strikers, students and "aliens" were the "enemy at home."

The great October Socialist Revolution proclaimed the complete equality of nations and the right of nations to independent conduct of their political life, putting an end to national oppression.

The Red Army, child of the October Revolution, is an army based on the fraternity and friendship of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. For the first time in the history of mankind an army has arisen whose banners do not stand for the oppression of nations but for their liberation, not for the suppression and subjugation of weak nations, but for assistance to them, not for national enmity, but for brotherly love among the peoples and profound internationalism.

"... Our Red Army," said Stalin, "... is an army based on the fraternity of the nations of our country, an army that emancipated the oppressed nations of our country, an army that is defending the liberty and independence of the nations of our country. . . ."

This friendship among the peoples of the Soviet Union is a source of the strength and might of the Red Army.

The nations which had borne the yoke of national oppression and humiliation for many centuries defended their right to be free and equal. During the years of the civil war many heroes came from the ranks of the Soviet people, heroes of legendary fame, who courageously and ably directed the battles against the interventionists and White Guards for their socialist fatherland. The Russians Chapayev and Lazo; the Moldavian Kotovsky; the Ukrainians Shors and Parkhomenko; the Serb Dundych; the Georgian Kikvidze—all these and many others fought bravely

against the enemies, and cemented the friendship of the peoples of the Soviet Union with their blood.

The name of Mikhail Frunze, the old Bolshevik who was in command of the Turkestan front, was a beloved and popular name among the Uzbeks, Tajiks and Turkmens, who had been freed of the *bey*s and interventionists by the Red Army. Sergei Kirov, who led the operations of the Red Army in the Northern Caucasus, had the affection of the peoples of the Caucasus.

The peoples of the Caucasus, of Central Asia, of the Ukraine, of Byelorussia and of Crimea saw in the Red Army and its leaders their brothers, their defenders and emancipators from capitalist and national oppression.

"The revolution would not have been victorious in Russia, and Kolchak and Denikin would not have been crushed, had not the Russian proletariat enjoyed the sympathy and support of the oppressed peoples of the former Russian empire. But to win the sympathy and support of these peoples it had first of all to break the fetters of Russian imperialism and free these peoples from the yoke of national oppression."*

The sons of all nationalities of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are forging the military might of the socialist fatherland in the numerous units of the army, its schools and academies.

The men of the Red Army are imbued with a spirit of fraternal friendship and mutual respect for all nationalities.

The history of the Red Army during the last few years has shown the inseverable ties of friendship between the men and commanders of all nationalities.

* Stalin, *Problems of Leninism*, p. 56.

IN THE BATTLES FOR THE SOCIALIST FATHERLAND

THE Red Army, while it is a firm bulwark of peace, exists for war.

It is in war that the efficiency and matériel of the armed forces, the attitude of the people toward their army and the strength of the front and the rear are put to the test. It is in war that the people themselves, their devotion and political stamina, their knowledge and skill in overcoming the difficulties of military life are put to the test.

“War,” said Lenin, “is the test of all the economic and organizational forces of every nation.”*

War is the acid test of the moral and physical stamina of the men and commanders.

In the past two years the Red Army has undergone three such military tests: at Lake Hassan, at Khalkhin-Gol, and, finally, the military operations in Finland. It passed each of these with honor.

The Battles at Lake Hassan

In the summer of 1938 the Japanese militarists made an attempt to seize a section of Soviet territory in the Far East, in the district of Lake Hassan. It was no accident that this particular place was chosen. Lake Hassan and the heights adjoining it, Zaozernaya (Changkufeng) Hill and Bezymyannaya (Hsa Tsao-feng) Hill, are only six miles from the coast of the Pacific Ocean and eighty miles from Vladivostok.

* Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. XXIV, p. 544, Russ. ed.

The capture of these heights would have enabled the Japanese to threaten the Soviet harbor of Posiet and the coast in the direction of Vladivostok.

On the night of July 28 a company of Japanese border guards secretly concentrated at the Zaozernaya and Bezymyannaya Hills. On July 29, they made a surprise attack on Bezymyannaya. At that time Bezymyannaya was occupied by a detachment of Soviet border guards consisting of eleven men.

Despite the obvious preponderance of forces in favor of the Japanese, the Soviet border guards met the attackers with resolute resistance. A hot engagement ensued, which developed into a hand to hand conflict. The Soviet border guards fought to the last. Five were killed and the rest wounded. Unable to hold the heights any longer, the Soviet border guards were obliged to retreat.

Hearing the firing, a reserve detachment of border guards made for the scene of the fighting and, after bringing their bayonets and hand-grenades into play, drove out the Japanese.

On July 31, just before dawn, the Japanese launched a new assault. This time they stormed both heights, Bezymyannaya and Zaozernaya. The Japanese attacked with two infantry regiments supported by strong artillery fire. Having seized Bezymyannaya and Zaozernaya, they penetrated two and a half miles further into Soviet territory.

The Soviet command ordered the field units of the Red Army to wipe out the invaders. On August 2, field units of the First Army, stationed in Posiet District, came to grips with the Japanese.

Under pressure of the Soviet units the Japanese retreated to the heights of Bezymyannaya and Zaozernaya and entrenched themselves there. They erected fortifications, dug trenches and set up barbed-wire entanglements at the approaches to the heights.

The Japanese occupied an extremely favorable tactical position. Before them lay Lake Hassan, which did not permit the Soviet

troops to make a frontal attack on the heights. In order to destroy the enemy it was necessary to flank the lake under the raking fire of the Japanese troops, who not only occupied the heights of Zaozernaya and Bezymyannaya but a number of other eminences extending right and left along the frontier.

The approaches to the heights were covered with a tangle of barbed wire and were under constant machine-gun crossfire. In order to drive the invaders from Soviet territory it was necessary to advance through a curtain of fire and to demolish the barbed wire. Advancing steadily, the Soviet troops approached the enemy entanglements, repulsing the incessant counter-attacks of the Japanese with their bayonets.

On August 6 the Red Army launched a bold offensive. The Air Force came into action. The exploding bombs raised huge columns of earth on the treeless ridges; on the heights occupied by the Japanese the fragments of Japanese weapons and fortifications flew up into the air.

The artillery thundered forth as if vying with the powerful explosions of the air bombs. The intense artillery preparation fused with the air bombardment. The tanks plunged ahead over the uneven ground, carefully picking their way over the defiles, tearing through the entanglements and cutting into the Japanese lines. The Soviet infantry charged after the tanks.

Toward evening the Soviet planes repeated their bombardment. The artillery fire of the Japanese slackened. Toward morning the Japanese began to waver. With shouts of "Hurrah! Long live Stalin!" the Red Armymen rushed full tilt into the attack. The enemy was unable to stand his ground. At dawn the Red Flag was waving over Zaozernaya Hill.

After that, the fighting centered around Bezymyannaya Hill, where the Japanese were still ensconced in Soviet territory.



Observation fliers of the Red Air Force defining the route of their flight before taking off.

When the truce was declared on August 11, Soviet territory had been completely cleared of the Japanese invaders.

Thus sadly for the Japanese militarists did the battle of Zaozernaya end.

Soviet matériel came through its military test splendidly.

The heroic deeds of the men, commanders and political officers of the Red Army who took part in the battles in the district of Lake Hassan are the best testimony to the moral and physical stamina of the Red Armymen.

The Soviet people fully appreciated the heroic actions of their Red Army.

“Work in Stakhanov fashion, fight the enemy in Hassan fashion”—these words have been imprinted deeply in the minds of the working people of the land of socialism.

The Defeat of the Japanese at Khalkhin-Gol

The Red Army had struck a swift and telling blow at Hassan. But apparently one lesson was not enough for the Japanese militarists. They prepared a new provocation. This time it was on the borders of the Mongolian People's Republic.

At the beginning of 1939 Molotov, speaking at a session of the Supreme Soviet, warned the Japanese militarists:

“In accordance with the mutual assistance pact concluded between the U.S.S.R. and the Mongolian People's Republic, we deem it our duty to render the Mongolian People's Republic all necessary assistance in protecting her frontiers. We take such a thing as a pact of mutual assistance signed by the Soviet government seriously. I must issue the warning that, on the strength of the mutual assistance pact concluded between us, we will defend the frontiers of the Mongolian People's Republic with the same determination as our own.”*

* V. M. Molotov, *The International Situation and Soviet Foreign Policy*.

However, the Japanese militarists failed to draw the necessary conclusions from this warning given by the head of the Soviet Government. In the spring of 1939 the Japanese began to encroach upon the borders of the Mongolian People's Republic.

What did the Japanese militarists hope to achieve by this violation of the Mongolian border?

By penetrating into the territory of the Mongolian People's Republic they hoped to accomplish several things at once. First, to seize the territory of the Mongolian People's Republic and to transform it into a *place d'armes* for an attack on the Soviet Union. From this vantage ground it would have been possible to cut the Trans-Siberian Railway at Baikal. Moreover, by approaching the Soviet Trans-Baikal borders, the Japanese would threaten Chita and the entire Soviet territory from Baikal to Vladivostok. Secondly, the Japanese command was thirsting to avenge itself for their defeat at Lake Hassan in 1938, and thereby to bolster up the shaky reputation of the Japanese army.

The Japanese military began to prepare for this new venture long before the commencement of military operations. Their plan hinged on inflicting a quick and smashing blow on the Soviet-Mongolian troops. The Japanese figured that the Red Army would be unable to make use of its tanks on the extremely rough terrain. Moreover, they banked on the distance of the theater of military operations from the Soviet rear and the home base, and on the distance of the front from the railway trunkline (460 miles). Taking this as their premise they decided that the Soviet command would be unable to bring up troops, reinforcements, fuel, food supplies, etc., in good time.

On May 11, 1939, Japanese troops unexpectedly attacked the border guards of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Army, twelve miles east of the River Khalkhin-Gol. The guards retreated to

the river. With the arrival of reinforcements, the Mongolian-Soviet troops took the offensive and beat back the Japanese. The fighting continued for ten days. During this time the Japanese exerted every effort to bring up reinforcements.

On May 21 Lieutenant-General Kamatsubara, Commander of the 23rd Japanese Division, gave the order: "This division must destroy the troops of Outer Mongolia in the region of Khalkhin-Gol with its own forces."

On May 22 the Japanese penetrated into the territory of the Mongolian People's Republic, but were thrown back once again with considerable losses. Then General Kamatsubara called out tanks, armored cars, artillery and airplanes from Hailar, and on May 28 once again launched an attack. Nevertheless, on the following day the Japanese troops, which had lost over 400 men, were obliged to call a halt to their offensive.

In the course of the subsequent three weeks the Japanese command transferred airplanes from the whole of Manchuria to this zone, brought up the necessary replenishments and concentrated more and more troops on this front. It concentrated here two infantry divisions, six cavalry regiments, a mechanized motor brigade and heavy artillery.

At dawn on July 3 the Japanese commenced their attack. The Japanese troops crossed to the western bank of Khalkhin-Gol River in the district of Bain-Tsagan Hill in an attempt to outflank the Soviet-Mongolian troops and to destroy them.

But the command of the Soviet-Mongolian troops saw through their intention and adopted the only correct measure.

The tank unit of Hero of the Soviet Union Yakovlev, the mechanized motor unit of Lesovoy and the rifle unit under the command of Fedyuninsky were thrown against the enemy.

The tank unit arrived first. It was impossible to delay and to

wait for the arrival of the infantry. Yakovlev gave the order to attack, and the formidable column of tanks surged forward against the enemy. The land cruisers drove into the enemy trenches, firing from machine-guns, crushing and mowing down the batteries and infantry of the Japanese. The powerful tanks penetrated far behind the lines of the enemy, working havoc among the panic-stricken infantry.

Lesovoy's mechanized motor unit plunged into the battle as soon as it came up, supporting the tanks. Three times the heroic crews of the armored cars went into attack, firing point-blank at the Japanese.

By then Fedyuninsky's infantry had come up, assisted by Yakovlev's tank crew, which cleared a way for them. With fire and bayonet the Red Infantry completed the rout of the enemy.

Beaten at Bain-Tsagan, the Japanese did not remain quiet. They sent large air contingents into battle, bringing their best pilots to Khalkhin-Gol, pilots who had acquired their military experience in the war in China. But in the persons of the fliers of the Red Army they encountered invincible opponents, who showed their superiority as regards both skill and courage.

The Japanese continued to draw up large forces, concentrating enormous numbers of infantry, artillery, tanks and airplanes, and covering the whole district with strong fortifications.

The command of the Soviet-Mongolian troops drew up a careful and comprehensive plan for surrounding and defeating the Japanese. The preparations for the general offensive were extremely complicated. With the theater of war some 460 miles from the railway it was necessary to bring up the required forces and matériel, to concentrate them in the zone of military operations and, finally, to bring these forces and matériel into the initial position for an offensive. And all this had to be done in full sight of the enemy, who had occupied the heights and commanded a

view of the disposition of the Soviet-Mongolian troops for a distance of eighteen to twenty-five miles.

By August 19 all the preliminaries had been completed.

The plan of the Soviet-Mongolian command was simple: to outflank the enemy, surrounding it on both sides, joining forces in the district of Nomun Khan Burd Obo and wiping out the enemy completely. Meanwhile the central group of troops would hold the enemy from the front, making it impossible for them to maneuver with reserves.

Early in the morning Soviet bombers and pursuit ships rose over the enemy lines. The Japanese planes, which had suffered severe losses before this, did not dare to rise and left their land units without any protection whatever from the air.

The Soviet bombers dropped hundreds of tons of bombs on the enemy fortifications. The pursuit ships showered a hail of lead on them. Then the thunder of the artillery barrage took the place of the explosions of the air bombs. Guns of all calibers prepared the attack.

The Soviet-Mongolian command took the offensive along the whole front, at the same time outflanking the enemy. Having outflanked the enemy, the columns practically joined behind the lines, opening fire on the Japanese roads of communication. The enemy units had been surrounded.

As a result of the ten-day battle two picked divisions of the Japanese army were completely wiped out. Headed by their officers, 294 Manchurians with arms in hand came over to the side of the Soviet-Mongolian troops. The Red Army took many prisoners. Numerous war trophies were captured on the shores of Khalkhin-Gol: 162 guns, ranging from 37-mm. quick-firing guns to 150-mm. heavy artillery pieces, 42,000 shells, 312 machine-guns, 1,620,000 cartridges, 36 mortars, 8 tanks, 8 armored cars and more than 100 tractors and automobiles.

During the entire military operations Soviet planes and anti-air guns brought down 660 Japanese planes.

Thousands of heroes came to the fore during the battle of Bain-Tsagan and the general offensive.

After a long silence, the Japanese newspaper *Asahi* devoted a leading article to the battle of Khalkhin-Gol.

The paper wrote:

"The events that have taken place are so momentous and grave that it is impossible to tell of them all in a single day. The steppe was strewn with the bodies of our valiant men. Our military authorities have drawn the edifying lesson from these events that in future military preparations will have to be made to perfection.

"The military authorities have taken this lesson to heart. The army must be completely filled with motorized units. This is the profound conclusion to be drawn from the recent engagements. Until now the people did not know to what a great extent the troops of the Soviet Union were furnished with motorized units. . . . There are no few people today who are surprised at this unexpected state of affairs. . . ."

The defeat and annihilation of the Japanese-Manchurian troops in the Mongolian People's Republic are not a local episode, but a major and important operation. The Japanese militarists have finally taken to heart the bitter lesson which the Red Army has given them.

War With Finland

Finland is obliged to the great October Socialist Revolution for its existence as a state, for its independence.

Before that Finland was not independent. Prior to 1809 she was under the iron heel of the Swedish feudalists. Then for over a hundred years she bore the yoke of Russian tsarism.

On December 31, 1917, Lenin signed the decree granting Finland state independence. At the will of the Soviet Government and

the Bolshevik Party, for the first time in her entire history Finland became an independent state.

The Finnish bourgeoisie responded to this generous act of the Soviet Government by thrice repeated intervention in Soviet Karelia, by taking part in the attack which Yudenich launched on Petrograd, and by an endless chain of provocations against the U.S.S.R. For twenty-three years of its existence the governments in Finland had changed thirty times, and every one of them in more or less open form pursued a hostile policy toward the Soviet Union.

With the funds supplied by foreign powers and with the assistance of their generals and engineers, the ruling classes of Finland built the Mannerheim-Kirk Line and covered the country with a system of airdromes several times exceeding the requirements of the Finnish air force. These airdromes were meant to accommodate the airplanes of the foreign powers.

Participants in Red Army winter maneuvers in the Moscow Military District.



Airdromes were built in Uleaborg to accommodate multi-motor bombers whose purpose was to attack the Kirov Railway (Leningrad-Murmansk) and the Arctic Sea Fleet of the Soviet Union.

Strategic railways were laid from the ports to the borders of the U.S.S.R. in the expectation that expeditionary troops would disembark at the ports.

The lackey scientists of the bourgeoisie created a "theory" of the unity of the Ugro-Finnic tribes, according to which the Mordvinians, Chukchis, Votyaks and many other peoples inhabiting the Soviet Urals ought to belong to Finland.

With the beginning of the second world war the traditional hostility of the Finnish Government for the U.S.S.R. became even more marked. In obedience to the will of its masters Finland did all in its power to provoke a conflict with the U.S.S.R.

The Soviet Government did not want this war, resorting to every measure in order to settle the disputed questions peaceably. Desiring to secure the safety of Leningrad, which was only twenty miles from the borders of Finland, in October, 1939, the Soviet Government began negotiations with Finland about concluding a pact of mutual assistance with the U.S.S.R. However, the Finnish Government refused to conclude the pact. Then the Soviet Government proposed that the Finnish border on the Karelian Isthmus be moved some tens of miles back into Finland. In exchange for this the Soviet Union offered Finland twice as much territory of Soviet Karelia. But all the proposals of the Soviet Government were rejected by Finland. The Finnish Government broke off negotiations with the Soviet Union and recalled its representatives from Moscow. And on Nov. 26, 1939, Finnish troops opened artillery fire on Soviet border guards. Three Red Army men and one commander were killed, seven Red Army men and two commanders wounded.

This was too much for the patience of the Soviet people. The

Soviet Government recalled its political and economic representatives from Finland and ordered the High Command of the Red Army and Navy to immediately cut short any new attempt on the part of the Finnish military.

On Nov. 30, 1939, the troops of the Leningrad Military Area crossed the border. Thus began the war of the U.S.S.R. and Finland. The sole aim of the Soviet Government in this war was to safeguard the security of the Soviet Union and particularly of Leningrad, with its 3,500,000 population.

Military operations developed simultaneously around Viborg, Kexholm, Petrozavodsk, Ukhta and Murmansk. The Command of the Red Army decided to launch the main blow in the direction of Leningrad-Viborg.

In making this decision the Soviet Command proceeded from the fact that by acting in this direction the Red troops could successfully break through and destroy the fortifications of the Mannerheim Line, the main artery of the entire system of defense of Finland; second, by dealing the main blow in the general direction of Viborg the Red Army would split the front of the enemy troops operating in the directions of Viborg and Petrozavodsk; third, by capturing Viborg the Red Army would gain possession of an extremely important railway and highroad junction, thus depriving the enemy of the freedom to maneuver; fourth, by coming out to the Saima Canal (north of Viborg) the troops of the Red Army would open up all the roads to northern and southern Finland, to the main economic, political and military centers of the country and to its capital—Helsinki. The capture of the Karelian Isthmus and Viborg district would deprive Finland of a considerable section of its industry; fifth, the seizure of Viborg would remove an important bulwark of the Finnish militarists and their imperialist masters.

The plan of the Red Army High Command reduced itself to

dealing a decisive blow and breaking through the enemy fortified zone (the Mannerheim Line), destroying the enemy troops on the Karelian Isthmus.

The Mannerheim Line was equipped on the model of the best West-European lines of fortifications, and consisted of 340 ferro-concrete permanent fortifications and over a thousand earth-and-timber emplacements and shelters. It consisted of an operative line of obstacles, the main defense zone, the second defense zone and the Viborg fortifications.

The operative line of obstacles began from the very borders of the U.S.S.R. and consisted of mine fields, abatis, anti-tank ditches and barbed-wire entanglements.

The main defense zone of the Mannerheim Line consisted of fortified positions and lines of barriers and obstacles.

The second defense zone lay at a distance of from two to three miles from the main defense zone. The fortifications, including the line of obstacles, extended 50 to 55 miles in the direction of Viborg.

The fortifications of the Mannerheim Line were reinforced by a system of obstacles (anti-tank ditches, ferro-concrete and granite road blocks, and barbed-wire entanglements). Thus a combination of powerful obstacles had been erected. The roads were pitted with craters, many of which were as much as sixteen feet deep and over, and several yards in diameter. In many cases the abatis extended for 275 yards.

All the defense zones had powerful fortifications and numerous lines of barriers and obstacles, located in the most favorable tactical positions. Use was made of everything: ferro-concrete, granite and natural obstacles. The terrain itself provided an excellent camouflage for the enemy armaments. Shrubbery and even young woods had grown up around some of the previously constructed permanent fortifications.

The permanent fortifications were varied. Those that had been constructed during 1929-37 were comparatively small—13 yds. x 9 yds. and 18 yds. x 11 yds. Each such fortification had two and three embrasures. The walls and roof were as much as five feet thick. Inside, these forts consisted of fighting casemates and were furnished with bunks which could be used by two-thirds of the personnel. They were lit by electricity, were equipped with telephones and radio, and had their own wells to supply water.

The permanent forts built in 1939 were considerably larger, averaging 48 yds. x 13 yds. and having from four to ten embrasures. Many of them had four or five machine-guns and as many artillery pieces. The walls and roofs of these forts had been built to resist 8-inch shells. Most of these forts had subterranean casemates large enough to shelter a garrison of forty to sixty men. Thus, the system of forts which had been built by the imperialists and made even stronger by the natural conditions of Finland was in no way inferior to the fortifications of the Siegfried and Maginot Lines.

The Belgian General Badoux, who had taken part in constructing this line, had stated the following about the invulnerability of the Mannerheim Line:

“In the modern shelters built on the Mannerheim Line,” he wrote in January, 1940, “the Finnish soldier observer is invulnerable. He is invisible himself and shoots through apertures which cannot be reached by shells. . . .

“The Finns have blasted machine-gun nests and gun pits in the solid granite which can defy the heaviest bombs.”

But the men, commanders and political officers of the Red Army thought differently. Brought up in the spirit of the Party of Lenin and Stalin, they knew that “there are no fortresses which the Bolsheviks cannot take.” However, the mere desire to break through the Mannerheim Line was not enough. It was also necessary to

know how to capture these fortresses, how to make use of the powerful matériel and arms of the Red Army to this end.

Neither the civil war in Soviet Russia, nor the subsequent wars have ever known any examples of a break through in a line of fortifications such as the Mannerheim Line. The German troops did not break through the Maginot Line in 1940 but out-flanked it.

The Red Army had to solve the problem of destroying the enemy fortifications itself.

In addition it was necessary to overcome the incredibly difficult conditions of the zone of military operations in Finland (the lack of roads, the dense forests, the narrow defiles and lakes, the never-freezing swamps, the deep snow, etc.).

Here is how Colonel Rossly, Hero of the Soviet Union, has described the conditions in which the Red Army operated in Finland:

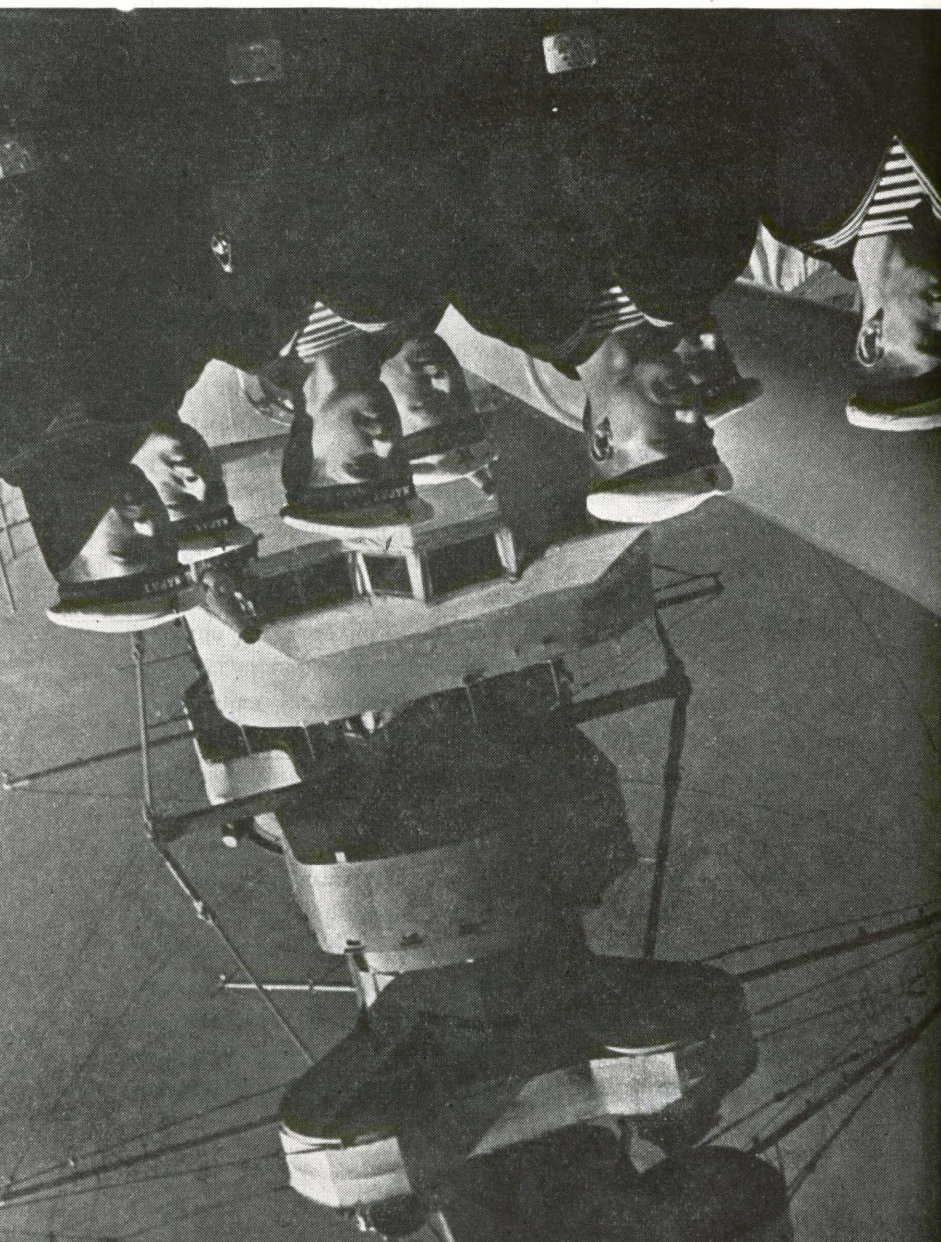
"A cursory glance at the map of the Karelian Isthmus is sufficient to convince one of the rich opportunities the Isthmus offers for defensive war. The terrain is covered with a chain of lakes, rivers and swamps. All around are forests, ridges and steep granite cliffs. Even if there were no fortifications it would be possible to wage defensive battle here most successfully. . . .

"Moreover, the temperature during the operations on the Karelian Isthmus frequently fell as low as 13° F below zero. The snow on the ground was often more than three feet in depth. For the most part the swamps did not freeze over and treacherous quagmires lay beneath the snow blanket. There were practically no roads. The few roads that did exist were under constant fire of the enemy. All this hindered the troops and created incredibly difficult conditions for the utilization of the matériel."

In order to overcome these difficulties the Red troops had to learn to fight in woods, to travel on skis both by day and by night and to be able to do so in conditions of battle.

In the fight against the Red Army the Finnish Whites resorted to all sorts of guerrilla tactics such as ambushes (groups of

Men of the Baltic Fleet during tactical exercises. During the years of the Stalin Five-Year Plan periods, the navy of the U.S.S.R. has become a formidable military force.



people with automatics), and sharpshooters firing from trees, in addition to which they laid extensive mine fields. The Schutzkorps and chasseurs mined entire districts. They laid mines under rocks with which they cluttered up the roads in order to hamper the movements of the Red Army, in the woods and at wells, in houses—wherever it was possible that someone would set foot.

But the Red Army was not daunted. The legend of “impregnability” was exploded by them in actual military practice.

Naturally, the movement of the Soviet troops could not be of a lightning nature in view of the extremely unfavorable conditions.

In summing up the military operations for the first three weeks of December, the command of the Leningrad Military Area noted a number of important achievements.

On the North, Soviet troops had occupied the region of Petsamo and had penetrated 80 miles into Finland, advancing on an average of 4 miles a day.

In the direction of Uleaborg, Soviet troops had advanced 95 miles, averaging almost 5 miles a day.

In the direction of Viborg, Soviet troops had moved up 40 miles from the frontier, averaging 2 miles a day.

Thus, in the main directions, the Soviet troops stubbornly overcame the zone of obstacles and came up against the defense zone of the Mannerheim Line.

At the beginning of January, 1940, Semyon Timoshenko, civil war hero and commander of the Red Army units in the campaign of liberation in Western Ukraine, was put in command of the Soviet troops on the Karelian Isthmus.

The Soviet command took a number of important auxiliary measures in preparation for a breakthrough of the enemy's first-class line of defense fortifications.

Preparations for the assault on the fortified district meant:

Reconnoitering the defenses, *i.e.*, establishing the disposition

of the anti-tank and anti-infantry obstacles and the location of the fire bays; mapping the fringe of the defense zone and the disposition of the guns; ascertaining the exact location of the ferro-concrete emplacements and determining which of them it would be most expedient to destroy by artillery fire and which by other means; spotting the location of the reserves and the artillery positions;

Silencing and destroying the machine-gun nests, the artillery displacements and the reserves, and making roads through the artificial barriers;

Preparing a jumping-off ground for the attack on the fortified zone, *i.e.*, laying roads for bringing up, evacuating and maneuvering the artillery and taking up firing positions; digging trenches to shelter the infantry; equipping the firing positions of the artillery, mortars and machine-guns; equipping the command and observation posts; selecting and arranging the initial positions of the tanks;

Establishing lines of communication and arranging for uninterrupted supply to the troops of all the necessary replenishments and munitions.

In order to accomplish all this, time was needed. That is why all of January was spent on preparations.

During the month of January, the Red Army units in the war zone advanced in a number of directions, scouted the enemy's positions and prepared systematically and methodically for the decisive blow in the main direction. The command of the Red Army sent new forces and matériel to the Karelian Isthmus.

The results of this work were not slow in forthcoming. By the beginning of February military operations on the Karelian Isthmus had entered a new phase.

From February 11 to February 17 the Red Army broke through the first, most important and best fortified defense zone

of the Mannerheim Line, routed the garrisons of the enemy and forced them to retreat to the second defense zone. This was a great victory for the Red Army.

The Finns themselves tell of the force of the blow delivered by the Red units. Here is what was said by a non-commissioned officer of the Finnish 9th Infantry Regiment:

"The barrage on February 11 was frightful. For six hours our people lay absolutely motionless. Everyone was silent. We felt as if we were buried alive. Suddenly the Red artillery ceased to thunder. A minute passed and just as we were thinking that now we could breathe freely again we heard the sound of a Russian voice. 'We are surrounded,' thought we. The sole officer who had remained with us ordered us to go out and fight our way through to our own people. But each of us thought with horror of the Red Army bayonets. No one relished the idea of fighting in the open. The officer tried to keep our spirits up by telling us that reinforcements would soon come up, and so we did not surrender. All of us put our trust in the thick walls of our casemate. . . .

"Suddenly there was a terrific explosion. The lights went out. It was as if an air bomb had fallen in the very center of the subterranean casemate with enormous force. When I came to, I saw a gaping hole in the cement ceiling. . . ."

The first breach in the Mannerheim Line was made by the 123rd Rifle Division, commanded by Major-General Alyabyshev. The skilful operations of this division made the enemy feel the annihilating force of the Red infantry. The regiments of the division stormed and destroyed fortress after fortress. The division routed the enemy from many fortifications and captured a large number of prisoners and trophies. For its heroic action in battle, the 123rd Rifle Division was awarded the Order of Lenin.

What secured success to this division in battle was the able leadership of the units, the harmonious action of all arms, the powerful matériel, the profound political understanding on the part of the men and commanders.

Having broken through the main defense zone of the Mannerheim Line, the Soviet troops began to drive toward Viborg.

From February 17 to February 28 units of the Red Army captured the Koivisto fortifications, the city of Koivisto (Björkö) and the fortress of Trongsund.

The capture of the Island of Koivisto was one of the most remarkable operations of the Red Army.

Military experts of the capitalist countries had claimed that this island was absolutely "impregnable." The excellent long-range coast artillery of the island and the ring of ferro-concrete forts which encircled it made it seem truly impregnable. But the Red Army refuted the assertions of the bourgeois generals in actual battle.

From February 28 to March 5 the Soviet troops developed their drive in the direction of Viborg.

One column of troops harassed the enemy as it retreated to Viborg. At the same time another column accomplished a difficult and hazardous march over the ice of the Gulf of Finland and penetrated behind the lines of the Viborg enemy alignment.

From February 11 to March 1 alone, Red Army units captured 922 enemy fortifications, inflicting the following losses on the enemy: 506 pieces of ordnance, 2,732 machine-guns, 19 tanks, 20,000 shells, 10,000 rifles and over 14,000,000 cartridges, in addition to which 191 enemy planes were brought down.

From March 5 to March 13 the battle continued for the complete encirclement and capture of Viborg.

In the early hours of March 13 the Red Army made a heroic charge on the city and captured it by storm, the most important bulwark of the Finnish Whites—Viborg—thus falling under the blows of the combined forces of all arms of the Red Army.

All that remained of the impregnable Mannerheim Line was a heap of ruins under which lay buried the anti-Soviet designs of

those who had caused it to be built. The Finnish Whites sued for peace.

At 12 noon on March 13 hostilities ceased on all fronts in accordance with the terms of the Peace Treaty.

The most cogent reason for the victory of the Red Army over the Finnish Whites is its splendid people: the men, commanders and political officers, who are boundlessly devoted to their fatherland, to the Soviet Government.

* * *

The war with Finland ended in the victory of the Red Army. According to the terms of the Peace Treaty concluded on March 12, 1940, a number of islands in the Gulf of Finland; the entire Isthmus of Karelia, with the cities of Viborg and Koivisto; the

Gunners of the Red Navy finding the range during practice fire while on naval maneuvers.



western and northern shores of Lake Ladoga, with the towns of Antrea, Kexholm and Sortavala; territory including the city of Suojärvi; the territory west of Kandalaksha, with the town of Kuolajärvi, and part of the Sryedny and Rybachi Peninsulas were ceded to the Soviet Union. Moreover, Finland agreed to lease the Peninsula of Hangö at the entrance to the Gulf of Finland to the U.S.S.R. for thirty years. On this peninsula the U.S.S.R. has built a naval base which will be able to deal with any new attempt at aggression against the U.S.S.R.

The generous peace terms of the U.S.S.R. exposed the slander about Soviet aggression in Finland. Besides securing the safety of its northwestern borders and primarily of Leningrad, the Soviet Government not only made no further demands on defeated Finland which would in any way encroach on her national independence, but it even returned to her considerable territory that had been captured by the Red Army, including Petsamo, the only Finnish northern ice-free port in the Arctic Ocean.

The military experience in Finland was of enormous importance to the Red Army.

Actually, this was the first military conflict since the civil war of 1918-20 in which the Red Army came up against modern matériel and methods of conducting hostilities. In the battles against the Finnish Whites the Red Army learned the art of fighting in the complicated conditions of modern warfare.

This war showed that the Red Army is a modern army.

The destruction of the "impregnable" Mannerheim Line showed that the Red Army is equipped with the most up-to-date matériel and knows how to wield it to perfection.

The Red Army had the wholehearted support of the Soviet people. The inseverable unity of the army and the people was evidenced by the exceptional solidarity that existed between the front and the rear. The rear lived one life with the front. It sup-

plied the front with everything it required in good time: men, arms, munitions, food supplies, etc.

In filling the orders of their army, the workers performed miracles of labor heroism and valor: the workers of Magnitogorsk, for example, pledged themselves to provide the country with as much metal as was needed to help demolish the enemy. The Soviet physicians sent their finest surgeons and specialists to the front to render aid to the wounded. Their selfless labor made it possible for the overwhelming majority of the wounded and frost-bitten Red Armymen to return to the ranks of the Army.

Around 2,000 Leningrad performers served the units of the army in the field.

Improvised concerts were given in the immediate vicinity of the front-line positions.

The performers adapted themselves to the most varied and unexpected conditions of work.

They performed in barracks and dugouts, at airdromes, on the upper deck of naval vessels and in forest glades.

In those days, when the Red Army was destroying the "impregnable" Mannerheim Line, every man in the army felt the constant solicitude of his country.

Scientists and schoolchildren, authors and collective farmers, rank-and-file workers and artists maintained close contact with the front, writing to the men and sending them gifts.

The families of the Red Armymen were given every care and attention. No one felt as if he were left alone and abandoned.

The war of the U.S.S.R. against the Finnish Whites clearly showed the whole world that both the rear and the front of the Red Army are invincible by reason of their solidarity and inherent unity. The valuable lessons drawn from the battles with the Finnish Whites and from the experience of the present war are being applied to make the Red Army more and more efficient.

THE LIFE STORY OF A WORLD FIGURE—

JOSEPH STALIN

A SHORT BIOGRAPHY

This authoritative life story of Joseph Stalin, leader of the Soviet Union and of the Bolshevik Party, provides the best general account of the practical and theoretical contributions made by Stalin to the success of the October Revolution of 1917, and to the subsequent building of socialism on one-sixth of the world.

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